

REMARKS

The present claim amendments are responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-19.

Summary of the Response

Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10-14 have been amended. Claim 3-8 have been canceled. Claims 20-24 have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 9-24 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Applicant's own admitted prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the claims as amended.

Claim 1 as amended recites: "a voltage dropping circuit dropping voltages on a first node located between said first input portion and said first output portion and a second node located between said second input portion and said second output portion before changing from a state in which said first input portion is disconnected from said first node to a state in which said first

input portion is connected to said first node". AAPA does not disclose any structure that corresponds to such voltage dropping circuit.

The recited voltage dropping circuit is supported in the specification, for example in reference to Fig. 4. The TFT 5 and 6 are turned on during time t_a-t_2 and the TFT 2 and 3 are turned on during time t_2-t_3 . Namely, the TFT 5 and 6 are turned on before the input portions In1 and In2 are connected to nodes N1 and N2 respectively. Further, when the TFT 5 and 6 are turned on, the nodes N1 and N2 are connected to the low power voltage supply 22 generating a low power supply voltage V_s_low . Hence, the voltages on the nodes N1 and N2 are both dropped by the low power supply voltage V_s_low before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node.

The AAPA noted in section [0006] of the specification states:

"Assuming that the input signals Si1 and Si2 are the low input voltage V_i_low and the high input voltage V_i_high , respectively, during a period from an instant t_1 to an instant t_4 . Further, assuming that, during a period from the instant t_1 to an instant t_2 , the TFTs 2 and 3 are opened state and the TFT 4 is closed state, and that the high voltage power supply 21 is connected to a node N1 through the TFT 4 and an inverter 12 and the low voltage power supply 22 is connected to a node N2 through an inverter 11 (That is, assuming that an output signal So1 has the high power supply voltage V_s_high as the high output voltage V_o_high , and that an output signal So2 has the low power supply voltage V_s_low as the low output voltage V_o_low)".

Accordingly, AAPA teaches that ***the node N1 is connected to the high voltage power supply 21 through TFT 4 and inverter 12 and the node N2 is connected to the low voltage power supply 22 through an inverter 11***, during time t_0-t_2 . Further, the TFT 2 and 3 are turned on at

time t_3 to connect input portions In1 and In2 to nodes N1 and N2 respectively. Namely, the *node N1 is not dropped before* input portion In1 is connected to node N1 before time t_3 . Thus, AAPA does not teach or disclose *the voltages on the nodes N1 and N2 are both dropped* by voltage dropping circuit (e.g., TFT 5 and 6 in the disclosed embodiment) before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node. As AAPA does not disclose that voltage dropping circuit drops the voltages on the nodes N1 and N2 before changing from a state in which first input portion is disconnected from first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to first node, as claimed in amended independent claim 1 of the present application, AAPA cannot be deemed to anticipate claim 1.

New claims 20-24 have been added to depend upon claim 1, to round out the coverage of the patentable aspects of the present invention. Claims 20-24 are therefore likewise patentable over AAPA for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. Further, dependent claims 20-24 include limitations that further distinguish from AAPA.

Independent claim 2 as amended recites: “a first voltage dropping circuit dropping a voltage on a first node located between said first input portion and said first output portion before changing from a state in which said first input portion is disconnected from said first node to a state in which said first input portion is connected to said first node; and a second voltage dropping circuit dropping a voltage on a second node located between said second input portion and said second output portion before changing from a state in which said second input portion is disconnected from said

second node to a state in which said second input portion is connected to said second node."

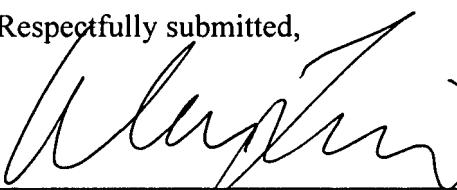
For similar reasons present above with respect to claim 1, AAPA does not disclose the recited first and second voltage dropping circuits recited in amended independent claim 2 of the present application. All the dependent claims 9-19 are therefore likewise patentable over AAPA for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 2. Further, dependent claims 9-19 include limitations that further distinguish from AAPA.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

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Respectfully submitted,



Wen Liu
Registration No. 32,822

LIU & LIU
444 S. Flower Street; Suite 1750
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone: (213) 830-5743
Facsimile: (213) 830-5741
Email: wliu@liulaw.com

Attachments:

Two Replacement Sheets
Two Annotated Replacement Sheets